

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /062 W
 045097 /46

R 171355Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USS GUAM
COMIDEASTFOR
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
CINCLANT
JCS WASHDC
CMC WASHDC
CNO
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
COMSIXTHFLT

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 14232

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, KE, US
SUBJECT: U.S. FLY-BY ON KENYA NATIONAL DAY - APPRAISAL

REF: (A) NAIROBI 14020, (B) NAIROBI 14049, (C) STATE 304154

1. DCM LINDSTROM CALLED ON KENYA DEFENSE MINISTRY PERMSEC
KIEREINI ON DECEMBER 17 FOR FIRST TIME SINCE DECEMBER 12
FLY-BY. KIEREINI WAS ECSTATIC OVER SUCCESS OF FLY-BY.
HE SAID THAT KENYANS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE, FROM
MINISTERS TO ORDINARY PRIVATE CITIZENS, HAD BEEN CONTRATULATING
HIM ALL WEEK FOR HAVING ARRANGED FLY-BY. HE SAID PRESIDENT
KENYATTA HAD BEEN "VERY IMPRESSED" AND THAT ATTORNEY GENERAL
NJONJO REMARKED IMMEDIATELY AFTER FLY-BY THAT IT WAS A PITY
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THAT THERE WERE "NO MORE PLANES." KIEREINI SAID IT
UNQUESTIONABLY HAD A POSITIVE EFFECT ON MORALE OF KENYAN PEOPLE
AS WELL AS ON THAT OF KENYA ARMED FORCES.

2. KIEREINI CONFIRMED IMPRESSION OF THIS EMBASSY THAT
TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO PUBLIC REACTION TO FLY-BY

BY EITHER SOMALIA OR UGANDA. HE WAS, OF COURSE, AWARE OF HARSH TANZANIAN REACTION (REPORTED BY DAR ES SALAAM 4625 NOTAL) BUT WAS INCLINED TO CONSIDER THIS AS PRIMARILY A FURTHER MANIFESTATION OF RECENT POLEMICS BETWEEN TANZANIA AND KENYA OVER EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ISSUES.

3. IN SUM, KIEREINI CONSIDERS FLY-BY TO HAVE BEEN GREAT SUCCESS AND EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR VIRTUALLY FLAWLESS IMPLEMENTATION OF FLY-BY BY TASK FORCE 101.1. HE SAID LOW-KEY MANNER IN WHICH PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE PROBABLY ACCOUNTS IN PART FOR ABSENCE OF PUBLIC REACTION BY SOMALIA AND UGANDA, "WHO NEVERTHELESS UNDOUBTEDLY GOT MESSAGE THAT KENYA HAS A FRIEND."

4. SPONTANEOUS FAVORABLE REACTIONS OF MANY KENYANS TO INDIVIDUAL EMBASSY OFFICERS ALL TEND TO SUPPORT KIEREINI'S ASSESSMENT THAT MISSION WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. IT HAS CLEARLY HAD EFFECT ON SOLIDIFYING OUR ALREADY EXCELLENT BILATERAL RELATIONS AND IS AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HOW U.S. MILITARY POWER CAN BE DISCREETLY USED TO SUPPORT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES.
MARSHALL

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